



Invention: Truck Bed Liner with Integrated Trunk Storage Compartment

Inventor: Brian Haack

Serial Number: 09/473,791

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Amendments to the Specification:

On page 8, please delete lines 1 through 8.

On page 8, line 9, please delete the word [17] and insert the word -- 14 --, as

5 follows:

Figure [17] 14 depicts a top view of the divider panel with a living hinge within liner bottom and the liner side wall to create the sides of the trunk storage compartment with the enclosure panel being formed from the liner front wall.

10 On page 8, line 12, please delete the word [18] and insert the word -- 15 --, as

follows:

Figure [18] 15 depicts a rear view of the divider panel raised from the horizontal position from the liner bottom and the enclosure panel in the liner side wall being raised to form the trunk storage

15 compartment.

On page 8, line 15, please delete the word [19] and insert the word -- 16 --, as

follows:

Figure [19] 16 is a fractionalized view illustrating the offset molding features of the device in a rounded corrugated pattern.

20 On page 8, line 17, please delete the word [20] and insert the word -- 17 --, as

follows:

Figure [20] 17 depicts an alternate embodiment illustrating the

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offset molding feature wherein a squared molding pattern is utilized.

On page 11, line, please insert the word -- 73 -- after the Word VELCRO[™] thereby changing the paragraph that begins on page 10, line 16 and ends on page 11, line

5 10 as follows:

Turning to figure 2, it can be seen that divider panel 56 can be raised to 90 off horizontal along living hinge 52 where it is then locked into place using divider vertical lock means 58. Tailgate liner section 46 a shown with an enclosure panel 70 and a base panel 72 that are hingedly connected by a living hinge 74. Living hinge 74 permits enclosure panel 70 to freely rotate with respect to base panel 72. Preferably, enclosure panel 70 is releasably affixed a base panel 72 VELCRO[™] -- 73 --, namely a hook and loop type of fasteners and components manufactured by Velcro, Inc. having, 10 upon information and belief, place of business in Manchester, New Hampshire. Alternatively, enclosure 70 may be releasably affixed to base panel 72 by any other means that would permit panels to releasably secure together. Typically, base panel 72 is attached to tailgate 30. Alternatively, base panel 72 may be integrally molded 15 to liner bottom 40 of truck bed liner 20. Enclosure panel 70 is rotated, along living hinge 74, and approximately 90 position with respect to base panel 72. In this position, enclosure panel 70 is set 20 for insertion into closure means 75 to form the enclosed trunk

storage compartmentalization. Obviously, divider panel 56 and enclosure panel 70 must be of a size and at and a location that they create an enclosed area when in a raised position.

On page 13, lines 2, please delete the word “horizontal” and insert the

- 5 word vertical in the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 17 and ending on page 13, line 9 as follows:

In operation, to create the trunk storage compartmentalization, divider panel 56 is rotated from the horizontal position to an essentially vertical position and locked into vertical divider lock means 58, as discussed above in figure 3. Enclosure panel 70 is removed from base panel 72 by applying sufficient pressure on enclosure panel 70 in direction away from base panel 72 to release closure panel 70 from base panel 72. Upon release, enclosure panel 70 rotates away from base panel 72 along living hinge 74.

15 Base panel 72 is then rotated from the [[horizontal]] vertical position to an essentially horizontal position through lifting and closing of tailgate 30. During the lifting and closing of tailgate 30 to a closed vertical position, enclosure panel 70 is received into closure means 75 by sliding edge 80 of enclosure panel 72 being inserted between horizontal protrusions 76 and a closure channel 78. Upon tailgate 30 reaching the closed vertical position, enclosure panel 72 is completely inserted into closure channel 78 such that sliding edge 80 is essentially flush with divider panel 56

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and enclosure panel 70 is approximately perpendicular to divider panel 56.

On page 15, please cancel the paragraph being on line 18 and ending on page 16, line 4.

- 5 On page 16, line 5, please delete the word “This” and insert the word -- An-- and delete the word “also” and in line 6, please delete “17” and insert -- 14 -- as follows:

[This] An alternate embodiment may [also] be accomplished using the same inventive concept as illustrated in Figure [17] 14 by 10 providing liner bottom 40 with a divider panel 56 and a living hinge 52 and liner side wall 36 or liner side wall 38 with a side panel 98 to form the sides of the trunk storage compartment with enclosure panel 92 being located within liner front wall 34.

- On page 16, line 9, please delete “18” and insert -- 15 -- and in line 10, 15 please delete the word “17” and insert -- 14 -- as follows:

As illustrated in Figure [18] 15, yet another embodiment may also be accomplished without liner side wall 36, 38 providing a side panel 98 (of Figure [17] 14). Instead, the side walls provide an enclosure 20 panel 92 that has a living hinge 52 located on liner side walls 36 or 38 to rotate from a vertical position to a horizontal position for attachment to latch means 96 located along front liner wall 34 with divider panel 56 being rotated to a vertical position from its

horizontal position within liner bottom 40.

On page 16, line 14, please delete the word [19] and insert the word -- 16 -- and delete the word [20] and insert the word -- 17 --, and in line 15, please delete the word [19] and insert the word -- 16 -- and delete the word [20] (second

- 5 occurrence) and insert the word -- 17 --, and in line 16, please delete the word [19] and insert the word -- 16 -- and delete the word [20] and insert the word -- 17 -- as follows:

Figures [19] 16 and [20] 17 are alternate examples of molding techniques used in manufacturing truck bed liner 20. Figure [19]
10 16 depicts a rounded molding process while Figure [20] 17 depicts a squared molding process. It should be noted that both in both Figure [19] 16 and Figure [20] 17, the corrugations 64 of the divider are offset to the corrugations 66 of the remainder of the truck bed liner bottom 40. This facilitate smooth operation of the
15 device inasmuch when a divider panel 56 is raised from its vertical position to its horizontal position, the corrugations of the divider fit between the corrugations of the remainder of the liner bottom. If the corrugations of the divider and remainder of the liner bottom are not offset, they may crush into one another making it difficult
20 to raise the divider into position without damaging the divider.

While the preferred embodiment of the inventive device contemplates an offset molding process, cutouts enabling the

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divider to be raised up and over the corrugations of the remainder of the liner bottom are also contemplated. Of course, liner is not using raised corrugations, have no need for offsetting the divider corrugations and the remainder of the bottom.

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